

## PRACTICING THE HUMANITIES

By James Quay  
Executive Director

Is it possible to practice the humanities? Not just to study them, but to put them into practice in the course of one's everyday life?

I'd begun thinking about this question earlier this year as the Council developed a set of programs for the Sesquicentennial, but it took the sudden death of my friend Walter Capps to point me toward an answer. As I tried to explain to those who hadn't known Walter just why this man had been so important to me, I found myself saying that Walter was not just a scholar of the humanities, he was a true practitioner of the humanities. By that I didn't mean that he was humane or humanistic, though he was certainly both, but rather that Walter somehow embodied the essential activities that the humanities stand for. Through his famous course on the Vietnam War and its sequel, *Voices of the Stranger*, Walter brought people and their stories from the margins of society into the very heart of the university. His students did not meet Vietnam veterans or disabled people as objects of study, but as human beings to be heard, talked to, encountered, and ultimately, cared about.

During his campaign for Congress, Walter read Pascal every



James Quay

morning because he wanted to read the words of someone pondering his place in the large scheme of things. Walter took the humanities seriously and put them at the center of his life, not at the margins of enrichment. They aren't just ornaments of a life – they express life's substance: the active effort to connect with other human beings, the place where one lives, and the public events that are shaping those lives. Walter showed me not just what the humanities were, but what they were for.

This year will see the launching of the California Sesquicentennial with official and unofficial events all over the state. The Council's

*The capacity for moral imagination is a resource California needs today even more than it needs gold.*

statewide Rediscovering California at 150 programs will be central to this commemoration. The Council's anthology, *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*, published by Heyday Books, is already in bookstores. The first of dozens of

reading-and-discussion groups in public libraries will be held in Downieville this month. The first "History Alive! Chautauqua" presentations will coincide with the kick-off of the Sesquicentennial on January 24 and the "Gold Fever!" traveling exhibit opens in Eureka and Lompoc in May.

What all these projects have in common is that they are occasions for all of us to practice the humanities: to hear stories about those who preceded us here; to talk with our neighbors about what these people did and what their actions mean to us today. Like Walter, the Council is bringing historical figures and their stories from the margins of history to the centers of public life.

When the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities met in San Francisco in early December, I told them that the Council was trying to bring people together in occasions that invite them to use their moral imagination. So many of us have come to California, each re-enacting our individual version of the Gold Rush, but we know next to nothing about the original. The world rushed into California 150 years ago, and the world is still rushing in. If we can imagine the lives of our predecessors and learn from the consequences of their actions, we might better be able to imagine the lives of our neighbors and learn from the consequences of our own actions. The capacity for moral imagination is a resource California needs today even more than it needs gold. Walter Capps was a man of moral imagination and all of us who feel the deep sorrow of his absence also feel the great power of his legacy. To exercise that imagination is to practice the humanities.

*"The piece was about half the size and of the shape of a pea."*

James Marshall thought for an instant that it was pyrite – "fool's gold." But it was gold, real gold! And Marshall's discovery on January 24, 1848 set in motion a rush of humanity that was unprecedented in history.

Join the Council in exploring the history and continuing impacts of the Gold Rush and the events that led to California's birth as a state 150 years ago by participating in "Rediscovering California at 150" activities in your community.



*The Sesquicentennial Project  
OF THE  
California Council  
for the Humanities*

Inside this issue of *Humanities Network*, on pages two to four, you'll find descriptions of some of our upcoming programs, as

well as preliminary schedule information for our three-year Sesquicentennial project. Additional details about events occurring between now and mid-April are in the Humanities Calendar. Updated information will be included on the calendar page of the Council's website ([www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org))

and in future issues of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you.

## In this issue

**Rediscovering California at 150 ..... page 2**

A sparkling new Gold Rush anthology, Reading and Discussion Groups, History Alive! Chautauqua presentations, the Gold Fever! traveling exhibition. Find out how you can get involved in the Council's commemoration of the California Sesquicentennial.

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A major Gold Rush exhibit opens at the Oakland Museum.

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*The California Council for the Humanities is a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Network is published quarterly and mailed to anyone who requests it from the San Francisco office.*



# REDISCOVERING

AN EXCERPT FROM THE COUNCIL'S  
GOLD RUSH ANTHOLOGY

from **SONGS FROM GOLD  
MOUNTAIN**, edited by **Marlon  
K. Hom**

*The Chinese nickname for the United States was "Gold Mountain," a name that reflected both the promise of wealth and hardship in store for Chinese immigrants. Semiautonomous Chinatowns emerged in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Stockton during the gold rush. Marginalized in their new home, Chinese Californians found work in a variety of occupations—they labored as miners, shopkeepers, domestics, and eventually railroad crewmen—usually at low wages with racist bosses and unsympathetic coworkers. Gamsaan go (or "gold mountain songs") were a new form of Cantonese poetry that emerged in the late nineteenth century to express the experiences of Chinese immigrants in the United States. The following Gamsaan go were written in San Francisco's Chinatown in the early 1910s.*

At home I was in poverty, constantly  
worried about firewood and rice.  
I borrowed money to come to Gold  
Mountain.  
Immigration officers cross examined me;  
no way could I get through.  
Deported to this island, like a convicted  
criminal.  
Here—  
Mournful sighs fill the gloomy room;  
A nation weak; her people often humili-  
ated  
Like animals, tortured and destroyed at  
others' whim.

American laws, more ferocious than tigers:  
Many are the people jailed inside wooden  
walls,  
Detained, interrogated, tortured,  
Like birds plunged into an open trap—  
What suffering!

To whom can I complain of the tragedy?  
I shout to Heaven, but there is no way out!  
Had I only known such difficulty in  
passing the Golden Gate...  
Fed up with this treatment, I regret my  
journey here.

Since my departure in Hong Kong,  
She and I are each in different places.  
A long separation makes a person even  
more miserable.  
How can one ever forget home, sweet  
home?  
Stranded in a foreign country,  
In dreams my soul encircles my village  
home.  
Words to wife and children: don't worry,  
you won't have to wait too long.  
Once I amass the gold, I will be on my  
way.

Its a summerlike first month of the new  
year.  
Ten thousand houses are decorated with  
New Year scrolls.  
In a foreign country, we celebrate the  
joyous festival in springtime clothes;  
We greet each other by the door, with  
auspicious sayings:  
May you claim a mine full of gold.  
May wealth soothe your soul.  
Hosts and guests, so gaily, raise the jade  
winecups,  
Sipping the spring wine, toasting merrily  
the swift, rosy clouds.

*Introductory note by anthology editor, Michael  
Kowalewski*

## Gold Rush Reading and Discussion Groups Planned

Thirty-seven libraries throughout the state have received grants from the Council to host reading and discussion sessions focusing on accounts of life during the California Gold Rush era. Led by a local historian or humanities scholar, each group will read and discuss selected passages from the Council's recently published anthology, *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*. Many of the participating libraries are scheduling their discussions to coincide with other local "Rediscovering California at 150" events over the next three years. For more information about the reading group in your area, call the numbers listed below.

### ANAHEIM

Anaheim Public Library - Canyon  
Hills Branch  
714/765-3437  
Starting date to be determined

### BEAUMONT

Beaumont Public Library  
909/845-1357  
Begins June 1999

### CARLSBAD

Carlsbad City Library  
760/434-2889  
Begins March 1999

### DOWNIEVILLE

Plumas County Library, Downieville  
Branch  
916/289-0809  
Begins January 20, 1998

### FRESNO COUNTY

Fresno County Public Library, Fresno  
209/488-3856  
Begins January 29, 1998

Selma Branch Library  
209/896-3393  
Begins Fall 1998

Talking Book Library, Fresno  
209/488-3217  
Begins Fall 1999

### HEMET

Hemet Public Library  
909/765-2448  
Begins January 1999

### KERN COUNTY

Kern County Library, Taft Branch  
805/763-3294  
Begins February 1998

Kern County Library, Kern River  
Valley Branch  
(Lake Isabella)  
760/379-8022  
Begins March 1998

### LODI

Lodi Public Library  
209/333-7476  
Begins October 1998

### LOMPOC

Lompoc Public Library  
805/736-3477  
Begins April 19, 1998

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Bruggemeyer Memorial Library  
(Monterey Park)  
626/307-1418  
Begins March 1998

Rosemead Library  
818/573-5220  
Begins Fall 1998

Los Angeles Public Library, Donald  
Kaufman Brentwood Branch  
310/575-8016  
Begins November 1999

Los Angeles Public Library, Eagle  
Rock Branch  
213/258-8079  
Begins January 1999

Los Angeles Public Library, Dr. Mary  
McLeod Bethune Regional Library  
213/732-0169  
Begins November 1998

### MERCED

Merced County Library  
209/385-7484  
Begins February 2000

### NEWPORT BEACH

Newport Beach Public Library  
714/714-3808  
Begins January 1999

### PLACENTIA

Placentia Library District  
714/528-1906 ext. 207  
Starting date to be determined

### PLACERVILLE

El Dorado County Library  
530/621-5546  
Begins September 20, 1998

### PLEASANTON

Alameda County Library, Pleasanton  
Branch  
510/462-3535, ext 28  
Begins early 1999

### RIVERSIDE

Riverside Public Library  
909/782-5713  
Begins March 8, 1998

### SACRAMENTO

Sacramento Public Library  
916/264-2770  
Begins Fall 1998

### SAN DIEGO

San Diego County Library (El Cajon  
branch & Fletcher Hills branch)  
619/579-4417  
Begins September 1998

San Diego Public Library  
619/236-5821  
Begins April 1999

### SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Public Library  
415/557-4595  
Begins Spring 1999

### SAN LEANDRO

City of San Leandro Library  
510/577-3491  
Begins Spring 2000

### SAN RAFAEL

San Rafael Public Library  
415/485-3317  
Starting date to be determined

Marin County Free Library  
415/499-7551  
Starting date to be determined

### SAN RAMON

Contra Costa County Library, San  
Ramon Branch  
510/244-1520  
Begins September 1998

### SONORA

Tuolumne County Library  
209/533-5945  
Begins October 1998

### STOCKTON

San Joaquin County Public Library  
209/937-8322  
Begins April 20, 1998

### TORRANCE

Torrance Public Library  
310/618-5950  
Begins July 1998

### UKIAH

Mendocino County Library  
707/463-4492  
Starting date to be determined

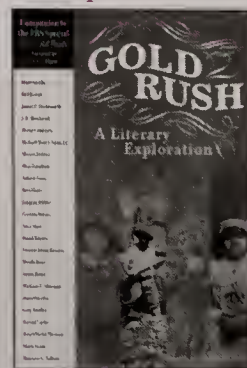
### WOODLAND

Woodland Public Library  
916/661-5980  
Starting date to be determined

### YORBA LINDA

Yorba Linda Public Library  
714/777-2873  
Starting date to be determined

*Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration* contains more than 100 selections of gripping first-hand accounts, humorous stories, thoughtful reminiscences, and retrospective essays about the personal and historical impacts of the California Gold Rush.





# CALIFORNIA AT 150

## History Alive! Chautauqua Programs Begin

**S**tories of some of the California Gold Rush era's most fascinating and complex personalities will be brought to life in the Council's "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Over the next three years, dramatic, historically accurate chautauqua performances (modeled after the rousing educational tent assemblies of the last century) will be staged throughout the state.

The Council's troupe of scholar/performers will portray thirteen historical figures who helped shape California before, during and after the Gold Rush. These include:

Juana Briones, one of the most prominent women of early California; Dr. Yee Fung Cheung, a Chinese herb doctor who came to California about 1850; Antonio Garra, leader of an 1850 Indian tax revolt near San Diego; José Jesus, a Siakumne Indian of the Central Valley Yokuts; William Leidesdorff, an African-American businessman in early San Francisco; Biddy Mason, a former slave who became a philanthropist and community leader in Los Angeles; Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of California; Mary Ellen Pleasant, who became known as the "Mother of Civil Rights in California;" Sarah Royce, who wrote a detailed memoir of crossing the continent to California in 1849; "Dame Shirley" (Louise Amelia Smith Clappe), chronicler of life in the mining camps; John Sutter, owner of the mill where gold was first discovered; Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo (see sidebar); and Camillo Ynitia, last chief of the Coastal Miwok village of Olompali.

As announced in the last issue of *Humanities Network*, the Council is offering modest grants to select, local non-profit organizations to present a "History Alive!" performance free of charge in their communities. For-profit and other groups and organizations can also schedule one or more History Alive! presentations in their communities through special arrangements with the Council.

For more information about the "History Alive Chautauqua" program and/or to receive a chautauqua grant application form, please contact Joan Jasper, History Alive! Scheduler, at 888/543-4434.

## HISTORY ALIVE! CHAUTAUQUA SCHEDULE

Here is the current schedule of History Alive performances in California. For updated information please visit the Council's website calendar pages (<http://www.calhum.org/calendar.html>) or call 888/543-4434.

### JANUARY 24 & 25

- ❖ Kate Magruder will portray "Dame Shirley," David Fenimore will portray John Sutter, José Rivera will portray José Jesus, and Charlie Chin will portray Dr. Yee Fung Cheung during "Gold



José Rivera portrays José Jesus.

Discovery Days" at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma. These events are the official kick-off of California's Gold Rush to Statehood Sesquicentennial. Call 916/622-0390 for more information.

### JANUARY 31

- ❖ Sandra Kamusikiri portrays Biddy Mason at the Oakland Museum in conjunction with the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 510/238-2200.

### FEBRUARY 7

- ❖ Charlie Chin portrays Dr. Yee Fung Cheung in a Heritage Shared program at Questa College in San Luis Obispo. 805/546-3166

### FEBRUARY 26

- ❖ Charlie Chin portrays Dr. Yee Fung Cheung at the Museum of History and Art in Ontario, in conjunction with the "Gum San" exhibit. 909/983-3198.

### MARCH 15

- ❖ Olga Loya portrays Juana Briones and Susheel Bibbs portrays Mary Ellen Pleasant at the Oakland Museum in conjunction with the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 510/238-2200.



Susheel Bibbs portrays Mary Ellen Pleasant.

### MARCH 20

(tentative)

- ❖ José Rivera will portray Cupeño Indian leader Antonio Garra at the Oakland Museum in conjunction with the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 510/238-2200.

Photos by Mike Blumensaad

### APRIL 24

(tentative)

- ❖ José Rivera will portray Camillo Ynitia, last chief of the coastal Miwok village of Olompali, at the Oakland Museum in conjunction with the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 510/238-2200.

### MAY 8

- ❖ Roberto Garza will portray Pio Pico, last Mexican governor of California, at the Oakland Museum in conjunction with the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 510/238-2200.

### MAY 15

- ❖ Dan Lewis will portray Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo at the Oakland Museum in conjunction with the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 510/238-2200.



Kate Magruder portrays "Dame Shirley".

## A CALIFORNIA STORY

*"For it is written in the great book of the Director of the Universe that they — the Norteamericanos — are destined to run our same fate and there is nothing that we can do to delay for much time the realization of the great plan that consists in making the Californias the temple in whose halls the virginal daughters of the Pacific join hands with the indomitable adventurers who, overcoming all obstacles placed in their way by nature, have come to share with us the fruits of their experience acquired at the cost of great sacrifices. — Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo*

**O**ften called the "First Citizen of California," Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo saw California through three incarnations and played an important role during each. He was born in the Spanish colonial capital of Monterey in 1807, and was secretary to Governor Luis Arguello when news of Mexico's independence reached Alta California in 1822. Vallejo's influence was pervasive as both a politician and a military man in Alta California under Mexican rule. He was imprisoned during the Bear Flag Rebellion but was then elected a state senator in 1849, and remained one for two years after California became part of the Union in 1850. Although at the time of his death in 1890, Vallejo's vast land holdings had dwindled to a fraction of what they had been before statehood, Vallejo remained steadfast in his support of the U.S. role in California.



Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and his granddaughters, circa 1880. Photo courtesy of California Department of Parks and Recreation.



# REDISCOVERING CALIFORNIA... CONT'D

## GOLD FEVER! MUSEUM EXHIBITION WILL TRAVEL THE STATE

### *Gold Fever! at the Oakland Museum January 24 - July 26, 1998*

With support from the Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Oakland Museum of California has created "Gold Fever! The Lure and Legacy of the California Gold Rush," the most ambitious exhibition ever created on the California Gold Rush.

The more than 600 exhibition artifacts include the gold nugget discovered by James Marshall that launched the Gold Rush, the stern of the famous Gold Rush ship NIANTIC (the bow still rests under San Francisco), a reconstruction of a San Francisco archaeological dig of a Chinese store, and a miner's hand-hewn log cabin. Through interactive exhibits, evocative tableaux, and an innovative audio guide, "Gold Fever!" brings to life the sights and sounds of an era marked by stories of courage, endurance and tragedy.

Opening events include a two-day (January 24 and 25) National Gold Rush Symposium, which will feature noted scholars and writers, including J.S. Holliday, Patricia Limerick, Kevin Starr, James J. Rawls, Susan Johnson, Gray Brechin, Ling-chi Wang, and Frank La Pena. In the coming weeks and months, other exhibit-related programs will feature presentations by the Council's "History Alive! Chautauqua" performers. (See Humanities Calendar for more details).

In September the exhibit travels to the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. In July 1999, the exhibit moves to the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium.



From the "Gold Fever!" exhibit at the Oakland Museum. Faro scorekeeper, six shot pepperbox percussion revolver, California poker deck, drinking glass, and checkerboard game box. Courtesy of the Oakland Museum.

### Gold Fever! Traveling Exhibit Schedule

As part of its "Rediscovering California at 150" project, the Council has commissioned the Oakland Museum to develop a traveling exhibit based on the museum's "Gold Fever!" exhibit, which opens in January in Oakland.

The traveling exhibit draws from the state's remarkable treasury of Gold Rush-era images, documents, and objects to explore the astonishingly varied individual stories of the period – of those who already lived in California, the Californians and Native Americans, as well as of those who emigrated from all parts of the world. The exhibition will also examine the impact James Marshall's discovery had – and continues to have – on California's people, cultures, environment, and economy.

Over the next three years, the Council will schedule and circulate two copies of the traveling exhibit to communities throughout the state. In association with the Council and its traveling "Gold Fever!" exhibit, presenting museums will also create exhibits and programs that explore local histories related to California's Gold Rush and Statehood era.

#### MAY 8 - JULY 12, 1998

❖ CARNEGIE MUSEUM  
636 F Street  
Eureka  
707/442-0278

#### MAY 24 - JULY 5, 1998

❖ LOMPOC MUSEUM  
200 South H Street  
Lompoc  
805/736-3888

#### AUGUST 28 - OCTOBER 25, 1998

❖ NAPA VALLEY MUSEUM  
55 President's Circle  
Yountville  
707/944-0900

#### SEPTEMBER 6 - NOVEMBER 15, 1998

❖ REDDING MUSEUM OF ART & HISTORY  
56 Quartz Hill Road  
Redding  
916/243-8801

#### NOVEMBER 6, 1998 - JANUARY 8, 1999

❖ SONOMA COUNTY MUSEUM  
425 Seventh Street  
Santa Rosa  
707/579-1500

#### NOVEMBER 20, 1998 - JANUARY 17, 1999

❖ TULARE HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
444 West Tulare Ave.  
Tulare  
209/686-2074

#### JANUARY 19 - MARCH 28, 1999

❖ FRESNO CITY HALL  
(presented by Fresno City and County Historical Society)  
209/441-0826

#### JANUARY 24 - APRIL 11, 1999

❖ CHICO MUSEUM  
141 Salem Street  
Chico  
916/8921-4336

#### EXHIBITION SITES 1999 - 2000

SAN DIEGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
April 1999

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LODI  
June 1999

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM, YUBA CITY  
July 1999

CORONA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
September 1999

MONTEREY MUSEUM OF ART  
September 1999

MERCED COUNTY COURTHOUSE MUSEUM  
January 2000

MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART, ONTARIO  
February 2000

OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM, SANTA ANA  
September 2000

SANTA PAULA OIL MUSEUM  
October 2000



Chinese man in San Francisco, c. 1851, by Isaac Baker. Courtesy of the Oakland Museum of California Founders Fund.



Miner Mary McCloskey, c. 1850. Courtesy of the Huntington Library of California.



From the "Gold Fever!" exhibit at the Oakland Museum. "Miners at Spanish Flat," 1852 quarter-plate daguerreotype. Courtesy of the California State Library.



## WINTER Calendar

The public humanities programs listed on these three pages were either created or supported by the California Council for the Humanities. Please note that dates and times should be confirmed with the local sponsors. These listings are often provided to CCH well before final arrangements are made.

Please also check the monthly calendar listings on the Council's world wide web pages at <http://www.calhum.org/calendar.html>.

### EXHIBITS

**Thru Feb. 15** "Photography and the Old West" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of historical photographs by 19th and 20th century photographers, many of whom came west to record official government and geographical explorations and, later, the development of the railroads and other commercial enterprises. At the San Joaquin County Museum, Mickle Grove Park, Lodi. For more information, call 209/331-2057.

**Thru Mar. 3** "Overland: The California Emigrant Trail of 1841-1870" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of photographs of the modern-day Western landscape and remnants of the pioneer trails juxtaposed with excerpts from emigrants' diaries and popular 19th-century guidebooks. Lompoc Museum, 200 South H Street, Lompoc. 805/736-3888.



From "Overland." "Milo J. Ayer, Age 29, 1849, Graffiti, Independence Rock, Wyoming." View of the Emigrant Trail. If emigrants reached this rock by July 4, they knew they could reach California or Oregon before snow blocked the mountain passes. Photo by Greg Mac Gregor.

**Thru Mar. 29** "Gum San: Land of the Golden Mountain" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of artifacts, historical photos, and documents examining the lives and contributions of the Chinese in 19th century California and the West. At the Museum of History and Art, 225 South Euclid, Ontario. 909/983-3198.



From the "Between Two Worlds" exhibit. GLADIOLA HARVEST, Encinitas, California, October 7, 1987; "José Velasquez carries an armload of gladiolus buds at an Encinitas flower ranch. A perfect climate, imported water, fertilizer, and high-tech farming make the earth bloom, but little is done for the foreign-born laborer. Velasquez lives in a primitive sleeping shelter on the edge of the field." Photo by Don Bartletti.

**Thru Mar. 31** "Between Two Worlds" is a CERA-sponsored exhibit of photographs by photojournalist Don Bartletti exploring border life and immigration. Napa Valley Museum, 55 President's Circle, Yountville. 707/944-0900.

**Thru May 1** "Hidden Labor: Uncovering L.A.'s Garment Industry" is a mixed-media installation in nine display windows of a former department store focusing on the history of Los Angeles' garment industry and its workers. Open 24 hours. West 7th Street between Grand and Hope, Los Angeles. 310/967-5122.

**Thru May 19** "Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties: 1848-1852" is an exhibit exploring the impact that the discovery of gold had on the social, economic and environmental conditions of this area; it also examines the contributions made by Chinese and Hispanic cultures, conflicts with Anglo miners, and impacts on the land and landscape. Great Valley Museum, 1100 Stoddard Avenue, Modesto. 209/575-6196.

**Thru Jul. 26** "Gold Fever! The Lure and Legacy of the California Gold Rush" is a multidisciplinary exhibition of more than 1,000 artifacts, a theatrical audio guide, film footage, and a reconstructed archeological dig that examines the explosive impact of the Gold Rush on California's economy, population, environment and cultural diversity. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St, Oakland. 510/238-2200.

**Feb. 19 - Apr. 30** "Journey with the Voices and Faces of Highway 99," an outgrowth of the Council's "Highway 99: A Literary Journey" project, is an exhibit of historical and contemporary photographs and literary excerpts that explores the visual and literary images of the mixture of people, places and experiences that comprise the Great Central Valley. Merced County Courthouse Museum, 21st and N Streets, Merced. 209/723-2401.



From "Journey with the Voices and Faces of Highway 99." Pearl Madkins, 81, civil rights activist and teacher of African culture through storytelling in Merced County schools. Photo by Roger J. Wyan.

**Feb. 20 - May 15** "Photography and the Old West," the CERA-sponsored exhibit of historical photographs by 19th and 20th century photographers, moves to the Lompoc Museum, 200 South H Street, Lompoc. 805/736-3888.

**Apr. 3 - Jul. 6** "Gum San: Land of the Golden Mountain," the CERA-sponsored exhibit about the Chinese in 19th-century California and the West, moves to the Napa Valley Museum, 55 President's Circle, Yountville. 707/944-0500.



From the "Gold Fever!" exhibit. "Mountain Jack and a Wandering Miner," c. 1850, oil on canvas. By E. Hall Martin. From the collection of the Oakland Museum of California.



# HUMANITIES Calendar

## E V E N T S



John Sutter, as portrayed by David Fenimore. Sutter is one of the Gold Rush-era figures the Council is bringing to life in its "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Photo by Mike Blumensaadt.

**Jan. 24-25** Among the events featured during "Gold Discovery Days," the kick off for the state's California Sesqui-centennial commemoration, are "History Alive! Chautauqua" performances featuring four of the CCH chautauqua scholar/performers - Kate Magruder as Dame Shirley, David Fenimore as John Sutter, José Rivera as José Jesus, and Charlie Chin as Dr. Yee Fung Cheung. Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, Coloma. Note: there is a \$6/day entrance charge. 916/622-0390.

**Jan. 24-25** The two-day "Gold Fever! Symposium," associated with the opening of the "Gold Fever!" exhibit at the Oakland Museum, features a keynote address by historian J.S. Holliday, as well as panel discussions and lectures by historians Malcolm Rohrbaugh, Patricia Limerick, Kevin Starr, and others. The Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. 510/238-2200.

**Jan. 24** "The Impact of the Gold Rush on California Indians from a Native American Perspective" is a symposium presenting an alternative view of the Gold Rush era from the Native perspective, to coincide with the 150th anniversary of James Marshall's "discovery" of gold in Coloma. 1 p.m. Gold Discovery State Park, Coloma. 415/561-3992.

**Jan. 24** "Metaphor Inscribing Culture" is a reading and discussion group focusing on metaphors relating to ethnic identity and immigration. Part of the "Matrix of Metaphor" series. 10 a.m. Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. 310/393-2923.

**Jan. 26** Robert O'Hara's play "Insurrection: Holding History" is the subject of a symposium examining the play's themes of identity and history, and of contemporary and historical attitudes on homosexuality in the African-American community. Part of the American Conservatory Theater's "Perspective" series. Geary Theater, San Francisco. 415/834-3200.

**Jan. 27** "Creating Bohemia" is a lecture by Sarah L. Schrank on space, commercialism and identity. At the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles from 1957-1966. Part of a series on California Art from the 1930s to the 1960s. Noon. Orange County Museum of Art, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach. 714/759-1122.

**Jan. 28** The CCH-supported film documentary "Cowgirls" will be screened and followed by a discussion led by Dr. Linda Garber, assistant professor of women's studies, Fresno State University. Noon. Lyles Theater, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno. 209/441-1444.



From "Cowgirls: Portraits of American Ranch Women." Melody Harding, ranch foreman. Photo by David Swift.

**Jan. 31** The CCH-supported film documentary "Cowgirls" will be screened and followed by a discussion led by Dr. Linda Garber, Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Fresno State University. 1:30 p.m. Lyles Theater, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Avenue, Fresno. 209/441-1444.

**Jan. 31** "Biddy Mason," the former slave who played a prominent role in the early history of Los Angeles, will be portrayed by scholar Sandra Kamusikiri in one of the Council's "History Alive! Chautauqua" programs. 2 p.m. Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. 510/238-2200.



Biddy Mason, as portrayed by Sandra Kamusikiri. Mason is one of thirteen Gold Rush-era figures the Council is bringing to life in its "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Photo by Mike Blumensaadt.

**Jan. 31** "Roots Run Deep - A Voyage of Discovery" is a lecture and discussion group led by John William Templeton, on the Black experience in California from 1500-1900. In conjunction with the "Rivers of Hope-Rivers of Change" exhibit. Sonoma County Museum, 425 Seventh Street, Santa Rosa. 707/579-1500 for information and program time.

**Feb. 1** Photojournalist Don Bartletti will discuss the experiences he had over a two-year period while photographing immigrants on the Southern California-Mexico border. In conjunction with the "Between Two Worlds" exhibit. 3 p.m. Napa Valley Museum, 55 President's Circle, Yountville. 707/944-0500.

**Feb. 4** The CCH-supported film documentary "A Cowhand's Song" will be screened and followed by a discussion led by Dr. Jeri Echeverria, professor of history at Fresno State University. Noon. Lyles Theater, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Avenue. 209/441-1444.

**Feb. 5-7** "California 1848-1998: 150 Years Since the Discovery of Gold and the U.S.-Mexican War" is the tenth annual California Studies Conference. It will focus on legacies and impacts of the U.S.-Mexican War and the California Gold Rush. Davidson Convention Center at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. 213/740-1669

**Feb. 5** "Living Poetry in the City" is a discussion series about poetry in American society, with poet Jerome Rothenberg discussing the work of poet Allen Ginsberg. 2 p.m. Central San Diego Public Library Wangenheim Room, 820 E Street. 619/236-5817.



Poet Czeslaw Milosz. Photo by Jerry Bauer.

**Feb. 6** Czeslaw Milosz, the Nobel prize-winning poet, presents the first "New Voices in the Humanities" lecture in the Border Voices 5 project. This year's project explores the unexamined myths at work in U.S. society and culture. 7 p.m. Montezuma Hall, San Diego State University. 619/222-9304.

**Feb. 6** "M&M Smith: For Posterity's Sake" will be screened as part of the "Frame by Frame, Culture by Culture" series, followed by a discussion led by Leslie Price, professor of art at Humboldt State University. Ink People Center for the Arts, 411 Twelfth Street, Eureka. 707/442-8413.



**Feb. 7** "The Black West in California" is a lecture and discussion with Morris Turner examining the history of the Black West. In conjunction with the "Rivers of Hope-Rivers of Change" exhibit. Sonoma County Museum, 425 Seventh Street, Santa Rosa. 707/579-1500.

**Feb. 7** The CCH-supported documentary film "A Cowhand's Song" will be screened and followed by a discussion led by Dr. Jeri Echeverria, professor of history at Fresno State University. 1:30 p.m. Lyles Theater, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, 1515 Van Ness Avenue. 209/441-1444.

**Feb. 7** "Metaphor Inscribing Culture, Part II" is a reading and discussion group with Jane Hill of the University of Arizona, who will discuss racist imagery in the modern world. Part of the "Matrix of Metaphor" series. 10 a.m. Midnight Special Bookstore, 1318 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. 310/393-2923.

**Feb. 10** Susan Sontag, essayist and cultural theorist, presents the second "New Voices in the Humanities" lecture in the Border Voices 5 project. This year's project explores the unexamined myths at work in U.S. society and culture. 7 p.m. Montezuma Hall, San Diego State University. 619/222-9304.

**Feb. 17** The CCH-supported documentary film "For Better or For Worse" will be screened and followed by a discussion led by Dr. Rosalie Gilford. 4 p.m. Ruby Gerontology Center, Cal State Fullerton campus. 714/278-3580.

**Feb. 17** "The Making of Manuel Neri" is a lecture by Dr. Robert Pincus, art critic of the *San Diego Union Tribune*. Part of a series on California Art from the 1930s to the 1960s. Noon. Orange County Museum of Art, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach. 714/759-1122.

**Feb. 21** "Native Plants and Their Uses" focuses on the special relationship that existed, according to Native American beliefs, before creation, between the plant world and the human world. Facilitated by Otis Parrish. California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, Building 102, Presidio of San Francisco. 415/561-3992.

**Feb. 23** David Henry Hwang's play "Golden Child" is the subject of a symposium exploring the roles of religion and women play in Chinese history and culture. Featuring Canadian author Waysun Choy, actor/director Randall Duc Kim, and the Reverend Alan Jones. Part of the American Conservatory Theater's "Perspective" series. Geary Theater, San Francisco. 415/834-3200 for more information.

**Feb. 24** "The Mexican School and L.A. Art of the Depression Era" is a lecture by Susan Anderson, curatorial consultant for the J. Paul Getty Museum and for KOCE-TV. Part of a series on California Art from the 1930s to the 1960s. Noon. Orange County Museum of Art, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach. 714/759-1122.



*Yee Fung Cheung, as portrayed by Charlie Chin. Yee Fung is one of thirteen Gold Rush-era figures the Council is bringing to life in its "History Alive! Chautauqua" program.*

**Feb. 26** "Yee Fung Cheung," a Gold Rush-era doctor and herbalist, will be portrayed by Charlie Chin in a Chautauqua-style presentation coinciding with the "Gum San" exhibit of Chinese history in the West. Museum of History and Art, 225 South Euclid Avenue, Ontario. 909/983-3198.

**Feb. 27** JoAnn Levy, author of *They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*, will discuss "Women of the Gold Rush" in conjunction with the Great Valley Museum Gold Rush exhibition. 7:30 p.m. Modesto Junior College, East Campus Forum 110. 209/575-6196.

**Mar. 6** "Changing Our Minds: Dr. Evelyn Hooker" will be screened as part of the "Frame by Frame, Culture by Culture" series, followed by a discussion led by Ruth Mountaingrove. Ink People Center for the Arts, 411 Twelfth Street, Eureka. 707/442-8413.

**Mar. 7** "Communicado: Real Poetry by Real People" is a series of talks on cultural issues that infuse contemporary poetry. In the first talk, Harryette Mullen and Aldon Nielsen will discuss formal innovations in recent African-American poetry. Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center at New College, 766 Valencia Street, San Francisco. 415/437-3454.

**Mar. 8** "Riverside Gold Rush Reading & Discussion Groups" will meet four consecutive Mondays in March. 2 p.m. 2nd Floor Auditorium, Riverside Public Library, 3581 Mission Inn Avenue. For reservations and information, please call 909/782-5713.

**Mar. 10** "Who Sings the Blues? California Art of the 1930's and 40's" is a lecture by Dr. Susan Ehrlich of the University of Southern California. Part of a series on California Art from the 1930s to the 1960s. Noon. Orange County Museum of Art, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach. 714/759-1122.

**Mar. 13** Michael Moore, political satirist and filmmaker, presents the third "New Voices in the Humanities" lecture in the Border Voices 5 project. This year's project explores the unexamined myths at work in U.S. society and culture. 7 p.m. Montezuma Hall, San Diego State University. 619/222-9304.

**Mar. 14** "Communicado: Real Poetry by Real People" continues with a talk by Johanna Drucker of Yale University on the phenomenon of artists' books. Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center at New College, 766 Valencia Street, San Francisco. 415/437-3454.

**Mar. 15** "Juana Briones," one of the most prominent women in early California, and "Mary Ellen Pleasant," the Mother of Civil Rights in California, will be portrayed by scholar/performers Olga Loya and Susheel Bibbs respectively, in one of the Council's "History Alive! Chautauqua" programs. In conjunction with the "Gold Fever!" exhibition. 2 p.m. Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. 510/238-2200.



*Juana Briones, as portrayed by Olga Loya. Briones is one of thirteen Gold Rush-era figures the Council is bringing to life in its "History Alive! Chautauqua" program. Photo by Mike Blumensadt.*

**Mar. 18** "Impact of the Gold Rush on Native Americans" is a lecture by Jack Forbes, former chair of Native American Studies at UC Davis, in conjunction with the Great Valley Museum's "Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties Gold Rush" exhibit. 7:30 p.m. Modesto Junior College East Campus Forum 110. 209/575-6196.

**Mar. 31** "Experimental Film and the Beat Era" is a program of shorts from the 1950s and 1960s by San Francisco artists. Last in a series on California Art from the 1930s to the 1960s. Noon. Orange County Museum of Art, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach. 714/759-1122.

**Apr. 3 & 4** The fifth annual "Border Voices Poetry/Humanities Fair" will include readings by novelist/poet Victor Martinez and U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, as well as presentations and performances by poets Joy Harjo, Sekou Sundiata, Mei-mei Berssenbrugge and others. Montezuma Hall, San Diego State University. 619/222-9304.



*Poet/performer Joy Harjo.*



# Grants Awarded

## CALIFORNIA SESQUICENTENNIAL

### Old Sacramento: A Television Documentary

Sponsor: KTEH-TV, San Jose

Project Director: Peter Dallos

Amount of Award: \$9,863 in outright funds

During a 45-year span from 1839 to 1884, Sacramento grew from a wilderness fort into California's "second city," an entrepreneurial place that became the hub for the state's largest economic force — agriculture. Sacramento's residents survived fire, floods, cholera epidemics, and civil insurrection and played host to a series of events that shaped American history. Drawing on diaries, letters, memoirs newspaper accounts, and period photographs, paintings and drawings, this one-hour television documentary project will explore Sacramento history through the eyes of those who lived it.

### Gold Rush Audio Histories

Sponsor: KQED, Inc., San Francisco

Project Director: Jo Anne Walloce

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports the creation of 12 monthly radio segments about the California Gold Rush and its continuing impact on life in California today. Proposed segments include an audio exploration of Placerville then and now, a visit to Sonora, scene of early tensions between Spanish speaking and Anglo miners, and a feature on women of the Gold Rush. Segments will air on "The California Report," which is distributed to 24 public radio stations throughout California each week.

### Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties, 1848-1852

Sponsor: Great Valley Museum of Natural History, Modesto

Project Director: Joonne Larsen

Amount of Award: \$7,912

Between 1848 and 1852, the area that now comprises Tuolumne and Stanislaus counties was transformed by the influx of miners in search of gold. This award supports an interpretive exhibit exploring the social, cultural, and environmental impacts that these complex waves of immigrants had on the area. The accompanying public lectures will explore such topics as the impact of the Gold Rush on Native American culture and the major changes in land use that resulted from the Gold Rush. The exhibit will open January 24, 1998.



From "Petaluma: Chickens, Culture & Community." Sol Nitzberg and family. Sol, right, was tarred and feathered for his union organizing of apple pickers in the mid 1930s in Santa Rosa. George, left, appears in "Petaluma." Photo courtesy of Bonnie Burt.



From "The Valley's Cultural Patchwork." "Gustine Festa, Princesses Gather Before Procession," a 1988 photograph by Chris Simon.

## SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT

### The Valley's Cultural Patchwork

Sponsor: Film Arts Foundation, San Francisco

Project Director: Chris Simon

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This award supports the development of a script for a one-hour documentary film highlighting the cultural richness and complexity of California's Great Central Valley. Designed for broadcast on public television stations, the documentary will explore the experiences of the Okies, the Mexicans, the Portuguese, and the Hmong who have immigrated to the Valley, focusing on the musical expression of each group as one way to examine how each has formed its communities, shaped or maintained individual and group identities, accommodated itself to mainstream American life, and added to the diversity of that mainstream.

### Petaluma: Chickens, Culture & Community

Sponsor: Clority Educational Productions, Inc., Berkeley

Project Directors: Bonnie Burt and Judith Montell

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

At the beginning of this century, Jewish immigrants escaping wars and pogroms in Eastern Europe began settling in Petaluma, establishing by the end of the 1920s a progressive community of chicken ranchers. This award supports script development for a film documentary about the growth of this community, tracing its social, religious, and political changes through three generations. The finished television documentary will include images and sounds drawn from home movies, recorded interviews, newspapers, and archival footage, all of which will complement the recorded recollections of the community's residents.

### Breaking Myths - Creating Changes

Sponsor: CSU, Long Beach Foundation

Project Director: Olivio Oleo

Amount of Award: \$10,000

The award supports the development of a script for a one-hour documentary video exploring issues of ethnic and cultural identity and the influence of community on the shaping of identity. Through the interplay of the histories and life stories of Native American and Chicana/Latina women in California, the completed documentary will illuminate the process of ethnic and cultural identification, not just among Latinos and Native Americans, but among all cultural groups, and the effects of these processes on the formation of individual identities. The film's creators also plan to use the completed documentary in educational settings to foster multicultural understanding.

### Golden Lands, Working Hands

Sponsor: California Federation of Teachers, Oakland

Project Director: Fred Gloss

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

This grant supports the development of a script for a two-hour video about California labor history. In nine episodes, the film plans to explore the varied history of labor in the state since the Gold Rush and Statehood era, ranging from the exclusionary history of the Workingmen's Party of California (1877-82) to the rise of the AFL and CIO in California, through the Progressive era, the Depression, the New Deal, and contemporary organizing campaigns. The film will also examine the social and political contexts in which the California labor movement developed and the diversity of individuals who have participated in the attempts to organize California labor.



# Grants Awarded

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### Redescubriendo Nuestra Historia II: Mexican Los Angeles - Civil Rights and the Politics of Identity

Sponsor: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

Project Director: William D. Estrodo

Amount of Award: \$8,200

Following up on the first Redescubriendo conference in 1996, this project will continue the exploration of the city's Mexican past and its influence on the present. Through a series of eight panel discussions and accompanying cultural performances, conference participants will examine the reasons Mexicans have come at various times to L.A. and how the complex social, economic and cultural communities they formed have shaped the life of the city.

### Purepecha: People Who Travel - A Digital Journey

Sponsor: Sonto Monico Museum of Art

Project Director: Pedro Meyer

Amount of Award: \$5,000 in outright and \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

This grant supports a collaborative project between the Zone Zero photography website, writer Ruben Martinez and photographer Joseph Rodriguez. The project will document the migration of the Purepecha Indians as they travel from their homes in the pueblos of Michoacan to Watsonville, California, exploring the personal histories of the journeyers and how those histories fit into the larger social, cultural and historical patterns of migration. Online reports from the road by writer Martinez and photographer Rodriguez will form the basis of a wider series of scholar-led online discussions about the complex issues of migration, work, culture and race in an increasingly global society.

### A Nation Within Nations: Gypsies of California and Beyond

Sponsor: Lipinsky Institute for Judaic Studies, San Diego State University

Project Director: Kathleen Bolgley

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

Although a million Gypsies live in the U.S., thousands of them in California, the Rom are a misunderstood and often maligned "invisible" minority group. Meeting on Wednesday and Saturday evenings in March and April, this free, public symposium features internationally recognized Rom scholars who will explore the complex history and culture of the Gypsies.

### Imagining Community

Sponsor: San Diego State University Foundation

Project Director: Doreen Mottingly

Amount of Award: \$9,630 in outright funds

Once a semi-rural suburb of San Diego, City Heights has become the city's densest and most diverse residential community. Through a series of scholar-guided workshops, an exhibit, and public readings and panel discussions, this project will encourage community residents to collect, write, and share the stories of their varied lives and backgrounds with other participants, as well as to explore the changing history of City Heights.



From "Redescubriendo Nuestra Historia II." Mexican railroad workers, Los Angeles, CA, circa 1912. Courtesy of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

### Textile Arts of Laos

Sponsor: Fresno Arts Council

Project Director: Amy Kitchener

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in outright funds

"Textile Arts of Laos" will be the first major exhibit in the Central Valley focusing on Southeast Asian culture. It will feature the embroidery, appliqué and weaving of Laos and seeks to examine such themes as textiles in rites of passage, textile practices as expressions of individual and group aesthetics, and textiles as visual narratives depicting folktales, legends, and history. The exhibit will draw from the work of Lao, Hmong, Mien, Lahu and Khmu artists and artisans.

### Chance Encounters: The L.A. Project

Sponsor: Colifornia Museum of Photography/ University of Colifornia Riverside

Project Director: Jonothan Green

Amount of Award: \$5,000 in outright funds

Since 1992, Douglas McCulloh has shot photographs and collected stories within precise one-quarter-mile square locations randomly drawn from a 5,151-square grid that comprises Los Angeles. Taken together, the images and narratives of these chance encounters map the daily life of the city. This award supports the creation of humanities-based interpretive programming and materials to accompany a multiple-site exhibit project centering on McCulloh's work. The exhibit opens in Riverside on September 26, 1998.



From "Border Voices 5." Sekou Sundiata. Photo by Jana Leôn.

### The History of Popular Theatre and Collaboration

Sponsor: Dell'Arte, Inc., Blue Loke

Project Director: Michael Fields

Amount of Award: 10,000 in outright funds

This series of public lectures coincides with the eighth annual Mad River Festival in June and July. Lecture topics draw on the varied cultural traditions of those who have lived in the area and include "The History of Entertainment and Comedy in the American West;" "The Weave," a lecture based on a new theatrical work inspired by Karuk and Yurok basket weaving traditions; and "From Arlechino to Chaplin," an exploration of the comedic traditions that influenced popular theater in California.

### Border Voices 5: American Myths, Unexamined Assumptions

Sponsor: College of Arts and Letters, San Diego State University

Project Director: Poul Strand and Jock Webb

Amount of Award: \$10,000 in matching funds if \$20,000 is raised in outside gifts

The fifth annual Border Voices project will focus on explorations of the myths and unexamined assumptions in U.S. society and culture. This award specifically supports the "New Voices in the Humanities Lectures Series," which features Nobel-prize winning poet Czeslaw Milosz and essayist Susan Sontag, and the Border Voices Poetry/Humanities Fair, which will include U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky, poet/performer Joy Harjo, and poets Donald Hall, Sekou Sundiata, and Meimei Berssenbrugge, among others. Lecture series begins February 6, 1998. The fair will be held on April 3 and 4, 1998.



# Humanities News

## Council Co-Chairs Elected



At its December meeting in Oakland, the Council elected **Isabel Alegria**, a journalist from San Francisco, and **David Mas Masumoto**, a writer and farmer from Del Rey, as co-chairs of the Council. Masumoto and Alegria succeed Robert Benedetti, dean of the College of the Pacific,



the liberal arts college within the University of the Pacific in Stockton. Alegria and Masumoto will serve a two-year term as co-chairs beginning in March.

## Proposal Writing Workshops Offered

Workshops are scheduled in February and March for people interested in submitting grant proposals at the Council's April 1 major grant deadline.

### In San Francisco:

For Public Project proposals

Tuesday, February 10 10:30 a.m. to Noon

For Media Project proposals

Wednesday, February 11 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### In Los Angeles:

Friday, February 20 10 a.m. to Noon

Thursday, March 12 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### In San Diego:

at the Chula Vista Library

Tuesday, February 3 Noon to 2 p.m.

Interested non-profit organizations in the Los Angeles area can also call the local program officer (see below) to schedule a workshop if they can guarantee sufficient attendance.

The workshops are free, but advance registration is required. Please call the nearest Council office (415/391-1474 in San Francisco, 213/623-5993 in Los Angeles, and 619/232-4020 in San Diego) to register and confirm dates and locations. Please also request and read the current *Guide to the Grant Program* before attending the workshop.

## Council Meets in Riverside in March

The California Council for the Humanities' quarterly meeting will be held at the Mission Inn, 3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside on March 19, 20 and 21. Exact times for the Council sessions had not been determined as this issue of the newsletter went to press. For additional information, please contact the Council's San Francisco office.

## Joan Jasper Is the Council's "Rediscovering California at 150" Scheduler

Joan Jasper, a freelance marketing consultant, has been hired as the Council's "Rediscovering California at 150" Scheduler. She will help coordinate the Council's "History Alive!" Chautauqua programming throughout California. Ms. Jasper is currently a consultant for the National Maritime Museum and works on the San Francisco Gold Rush Task Force. She holds a master's degree in art history from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a bachelor of arts degree in English from Loyola University in Chicago.

## NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes for College and University Faculty

The National Endowment for the Humanities' Division of Research and Education Programs is offering 25 seminars and institutes on a variety of topics for college and university faculty members. A listing of the 1998 offerings can be obtained by contacting the Division of Research and Education Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20506, 202/606-8463. But PLEASE NOTE: Faculty members interested in participating in either a seminar or an institute need to write directly to the project director to request additional eligibility information and an application. The deadline for all applications is March 1, 1998.

Participants in summer seminars and institutes receive between \$2,800 and \$3,700, depending on the length of the seminar or institute, to cover the costs of travel, books and other research expenses, and living expenses.

For detailed eligibility requirements, applicants should consult the written application materials. Selection committees for seminars and institutes are directed to give first consideration to applicants who have not participated in an NEH-supported seminar or institute in the last three years.

## Walter Capps Remembered



It is with the deepest sorrow that we report the death of Rep. Walter H. Capps from a heart attack on October 28.

Walter Capps was a member of the California Council for the Humanities from 1981-87 and its Chairman from 1984-87. He also served as Chair of the Federation of State Humanities Councils from 1983-85. A member of the religious studies department of U.C. Santa Barbara for more than 30 years, Walter published more than a dozen books. He was nationally known for creating the first course to examine the Vietnam War, "The

Impact of the Vietnam War on American Culture," which attracts hundreds of students each year and was profiled in 1989 on *Sixty Minutes*.

A funeral service, held at Santa Barbara Mission on November 3, included eulogies from Jesse Jackson and Senator Robert Kerrey, as well as a letter from President Clinton read by Leon Panetta. Everyone who spoke paid tribute to Walter's fundamental decency, honesty, and idealism. For a Congressman in office only ten months, Walter's impact on his colleagues was enormous.

Those of us who knew and loved Walter knew that Walter loved the Council and its work. In an interview with Jim Quay three years ago, Walter said that what he remembered most about his time with CCH were the times when the Council came together behind an idea or a project or vision that tended to unite people. "I remember so many times coming out of there just really being uplifted by what we were able to do together," he said. "The fact that it came out of citizen participation just gave me the assurance that this was democracy in action, you know? I will always look back on that as being one of the most inspiring chapters in my life because of the stimulation I was getting from other people and from the process."

Walter Capps will be deeply missed.

## William Ferris Confirmed as NEH Chair



On November 9, in a unanimous vote, the U.S. Senate confirmed William R. Ferris, Jr. as the seventh chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr Ferris was nominated for the NEH post by President Clinton on October 23.

Before becoming NEH chair, Ferris served for 18 years as founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Under his leadership, the University of Mississippi developed the most comprehensive southern studies curriculum in

the nation, and the Center, with an interdisciplinary approach incorporating popular, folk, historical and literary subjects, attained national recognition as a model for regional studies centers. Among the cultural programs Ferris helped to nurture at the Center are the Oxford Conference for the Book, the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference, and the International Conferences on Elvis Presley, held in 1994 and 1995.

A folklorist, professor of anthropology, and prolific author, Ferris spearheaded the creation of the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, which is widely recognized as a major reference work linking popular, folk, and academic cultures and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1989. His books include *Ray Lum's Tales of Horses, Mules, and Men* (1992) and *Blues from the Delta* (1970). His films include *Mississippi Blues* (1983), which was featured at the Cannes Film Festival. He was also a consultant to the 1985 movies *The Color Purple* and *Crossroads*.

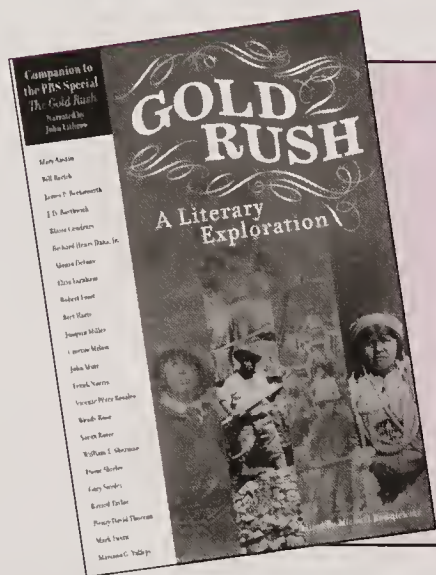
A self-described political independent, Ferris was endorsed early by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and Senator Thad Cochran, both Mississippi Republicans. In a December 1997 interview with the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, Ferris said, "I'm not going to rob Peter to pay Paul – shift money from one program to benefit another. I'm going to ask for more money, from Congress and from corporations and foundations." After consulting with academic organizations and members of the National Council on the Humanities, Ferris plans to announce a major initiative in the spring.

Dr. Ferris will be in California at least twice in early 1998. On January 24, he will attend opening ceremonies at the NEH- and CCH-supported *Gold Fever!* exhibit at the Oakland Museum. On March 27, he will deliver a major address at the Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco; that speech will be aired later on public radio stations throughout the nation.



# Membership and Development News

Join the Council's *Rediscovering California at 150* campaign today — with a gift of \$75 or more — and receive a complimentary copy of *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*, the official companion guide to the PBS special.



"This splendid selection of voices from the past provides evocative testimony to the greed, excitement, courage, curiosity, and despair that characterized the California Gold Rush."

— JoAnne Levy, author

*They Saw the Elephant: Women in the California Gold Rush*

"For both the general reader and specialists, [Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration] is a delightful treasure trove of information and insight."

— BOOKLIST

*Rediscovering California at 150* is a dynamic, multidimensional initiative that is offering Californians from Eureka to San Diego important and compelling ways to examine and reflect upon our common heritage — and its legacy.

Here are just a few of the things that supporters of the *Rediscovering California at 150* campaign are making possible:

**The Gold Fever! traveling exhibit** CCH has commissioned a comprehensive and compelling exhibit that will travel to dozens of sites throughout the state between January 1998 and December 2000. The exhibit is designed to illustrate key themes of the Gold Rush: *Who came to California, why they came and the impact of their legacy.*

**The new anthology, *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*** From the moment gold was discovered in the American River in 1848 to the present day, the California Gold Rush has generated writings that are boisterous, diverse and thought-provoking.

A joint project of the Council and Heyday Books, this exciting new book presents more than a hundred selections from this rich vein, including writings by *Mary Austin, Bill Barich, James P. Beckwourth, Eliza Farnham, Robert Frost, Bret Harte, Joaquin Miller, Czeslaw Milosz, John Muir, Frank Norris, Dame Shirley, Gary Snyder, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, Mariano G. Vallejo*, and others.

*Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration* will also be used as the basis for Council-sponsored reading and discussion groups throughout the state — and will serve as the official companion to the PBS film, "Gold Rush."

**California History Alive! Chautauqua** Live solo performances of 13 dynamic historical figures that helped shape California before, during and after the discovery of gold will provide the focal point to community events throughout California and offer Californians important insight into the people and events that shaped the state during its early years, including:

- **Juana Briones** - Briones was one of the few Californio landowners who successfully fought for her land grants (in what are now San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties) all the way to the Supreme Court. Her success on her own as a businesswoman, landowner, rancher and humanitarian was unusual for a woman of those times.
- **Yee Fung Cheung** - A famous herb doctor who came from China in 1850 to care for Chinese miners and others. Dr. Yee probably prospected for gold before giving it up for what he knew best — herbal medicine. He set up his first herb shop in Chinese Camp at Fiddletown. Later, he also set up offices in Virginia City, Nevada (during the silver strike) and in Sacramento — effecting many famous cures and caring for the sick of all races and nationalities.
- **Biddy Mason** - An African-American woman whose story exemplifies how Californians struggled with issues of slavery in the 1850's. Arriving in the Los Angeles area as a slave in 1851, she later won her freedom and became a midwife and nurse, a philanthropist and organizer of the first American Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles.
- **Mary Ellen Pleasant** - Civil rights activist and philanthropist known as the "Mother of Civil Rights" in California because of her work in saving runaway slaves and winning civil rights cases in court. She

funneled some of the wealth she earned in real estate and running several boarding houses in San Francisco during the Gold Rush into civil rights activities.

- **Camillo Yunitia** - The last chief of the Coastal Miwok village of Olompali, he was one of the handful of Native Californians who successfully traversed three diverse cultures. Born into the traditional Miwok world, he adapted to the Spanish world, experienced the Californio/Mexican world, and witnessed the entrance of the American World into California.

Very importantly, these voices from early *African-American, Asian, European, Latino* and *Native American* California residents will help illustrate that our state is now — and has always been — a diverse and unique landscape.

We hope this exploration of our state's complex and exciting past — its myths and realities — will provide us with new insights into addressing the tremendous challenges that Californians face as we prepare to enter the next century.

To become a vital part of the Council's *Rediscovering California at 150* campaign, please send us your special tax-deductible gift today along with the coupon below — or call: Julie Levak, Director of Development at 415/391-1474

**YES,** I want to make sure the diverse voices and experiences of *all Californians* are heard as we mark our 150th. Enclosed is my special gift of

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\*Your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the National Endowment for the Humanities — so your gift of \$75 will actually be a gift of \$150 to the Council.

**HUMANITIES**

Please make all checks payable to California Council for the Humanities and send to:

**CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES**  
312 Sutter, Suite 601  
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# CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

The humanities explore human histories, cultures, and values. They inform the conversations that are vital to a thriving democracy. They provide a context for people to understand one another. They constitute our most important human inheritance.

The purpose of the California Council for the Humanities is to create a state in which all Californians have lifelong access to this shared inheritance. The Council's mission is to lead in strengthening community life and fostering multicultural understanding throughout California, through programming which provides access to the texts and insights of the humanities council. It is an independent state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and operates as a public-private partnership rather than a governmental agency.

From 1998 to 2000, the Council will encourage and develop compelling public programming commemorating the events that led to the founding of the state of California 150 years ago and examining the continuing impact of those events today. The Council's own "Rediscovering California at 150" Sesquicentennial programs will include statewide chautauqua programs featuring in-person portrayals of major figures of the era; the creation of a Gold Rush anthology (published by Heyday Books) and statewide reading and discussion groups focusing on that anthology, a traveling Gold Rush museum exhibition with the Oakland Museum; and, a statewide conference focusing on key Sesquicentennial topics.

Council programs also include the California Exhibition Resources Alliance (CERA) which provides administrative support and a means for sharing exhibits among members of a network of smaller museums, and Motherhead, a family reading program in Los Angeles.

In addition, the Council conducts a competitive grants program. Since 1975, it has awarded more than \$13 million to over 2,000 non-profit organizations, enabling them to produce exhibits, film and radio programs, and lecture series and conferences on topics significant to California.

The Council is an independent, not-for-profit organization. It is supported by grants from NEH, corporations and foundations, and by contributions from individuals.

Major grant proposals are due on April 1 and October 1. Quick Grants - proposal planning grants, minigrants, film-and-speaker grants - are accepted on the first day of each month. Interested non-profit organizations should request a copy of the Guide to the Grant Program from the San Francisco office.

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## NEXT PROPOSAL DEADLINE: April 1, 1998

Proposals must conform to the 1997-1999 Guide to the Grant Program. Send 15 copies to the San Francisco office by the due date.

# HUMANITIES

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